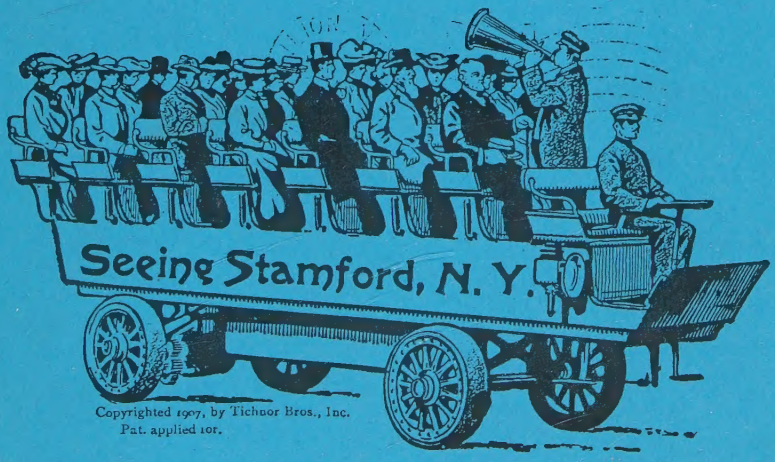
A Post Card Portrait

with memorabilia of

The Queen of the Catskills
Grand Hotel Era

1883-1942

Stamford, Delaware County, New York



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From the Private Post Card Collection of

Carlton F. & Dorothy Unruh Bloodgood

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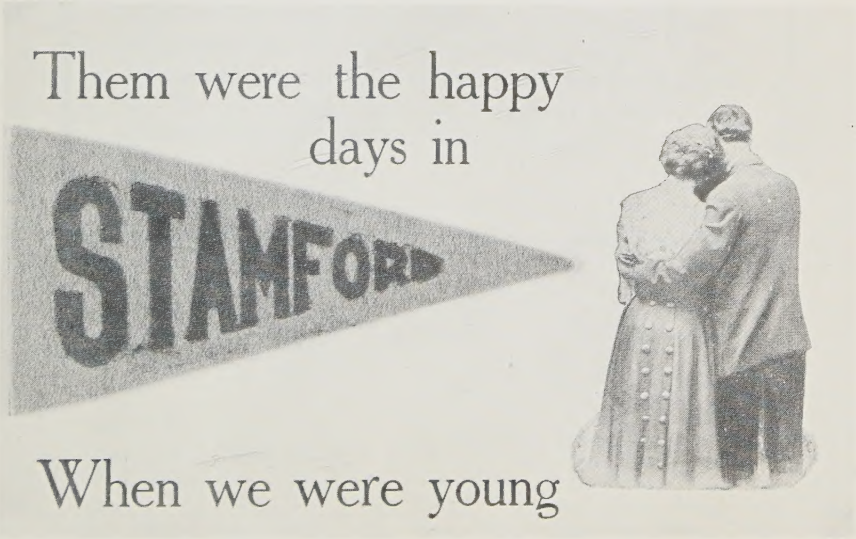

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DEDICATION

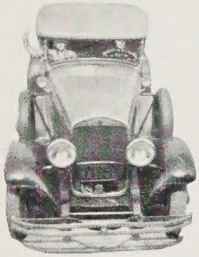
In loving memory
of our grandparents and parents,
this book is dedicated.

John E. and Dorothea Cross
Frank and Mina Cornell
Grant and Ida Bloodgood
Godfrey and Mathilda Cross Unruh
Ernest and Edna Cornell Bloodgood

In the mid-1800's, Frank Cornell, like his forefathers, was a dairy farmer in Cornell Hollow; Grant Bloodgood was a Coopersmith in Stamford and the John E. Cross' in 1888, began visiting Stamford as hotel guests at the Delaware House, from their home in New Jersey.

We are proud of our Stamford heritage that has been passed on to us and our daughter, Margaret Ann and our son, John-Godfrey Cornell and hopefully, to the future generations of our family to come. Without this heritage, this book could not have been written as a living tribute, to the village of Stamford and her beautiful pastoral countryside.

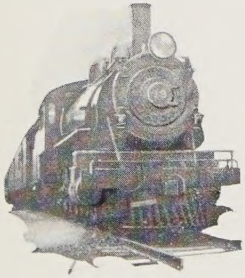
Best wishes,
Dorothy Unruh Bloodgood



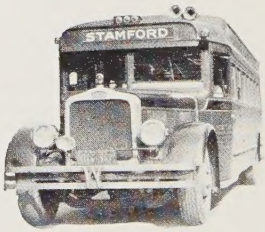
Here they come!

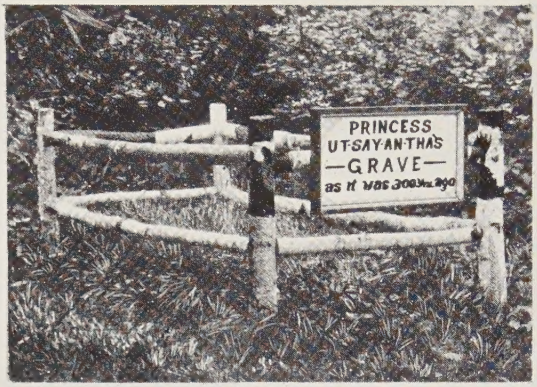
Actually thousands of happy, eager people, confident of the rest and fun they know they will find in

Stamford



STAMFORD
takes care of
her guests





UT-SAY-AN-THA'S GRAVE ON THE SIDE OF MT. UT-SAY-AN-THA
STAMFORD, N. Y.

Elevation 3,365 Feet

MT. UT-SAY-AN-THA'S LEGEND

A strange legend hovers over the place. The grand old mountain and the silvery lake bring to memory the sad tale of the death of an Indian maid. It was here, on bright moonlight night while the country was one vast wilderness, and the sturdy pioneer was struggling for existence that the terrible tragedy was enacted. The Indian maid was wooed and won by a white man. A babe was born to the strange couple. The chieftain of the tribe and the father of the maid, in mad fury, buried his tomahawk deep in the white man's brain; then, with babe in arms, he rowed to the center of the lake and plunged the child into a watery grave. The dusky maiden, with trembling steps, followed in the footsteps of her son's destroyer. When at last the deed was accomplished, and all was still, she swung her birch canoe from the shore and rowed to the spot. Then, with hands uplifted in mad despair, she plunged beneath the rippling waves, the water covered her and she was seen no more alive. The chieftain in sad distress, took his child from the lake, bore her to the top of the mountain, where, beneath a lonely mound she reposes to this day.

OA4733-H

Ut-say-an-tha Grave Site

INTRODUCTION

The Queen of the Catskills and her Grand Hotel Era, 1883-1942, will be remembered always with a warm heart and a mind filled with endless memories of happy times and endearing friendships. To many, the remembrances have become legends, passed on from generation to generation. During this period of time, everyone in his own way, villager or summer hotel guest, was having a love affair with the "Queen of the Catskills" - the resort that cared about its guests.

Stamford-in-the-Catskills, Delaware County, New York, is located at the source of the Delaware River and is 75 miles west of the Hudson River. Its site is at the foot of Mount Utsayantha, one of the tallest mountains of the Catskills (3,365 feet), the legendary mountain of Princess Utsayantha.

The region surrounding Stamford forms a plateau 1800 feet above sea level, bordered by mountain peaks on the north and east. The mountains, lakes and valleys, furnish Stamford with the exceptional scenic beauty of her pastoral countryside. The high altitude gives the village a very healthy climate, with its pure air. The temperatures in the summer are 10-15 degrees lower than in New York City and there is no humidity. The nights are always cool and without fog.

Year after year the visitors came to Stamford from the north, the south, the east and west and from abroad. They came by train, automobile, bus or the Hudson River Dayliner to Kingston. The passengers on the Dayliner would complete their journey by bus or taxi. The Oneonta Airport and the airstrip for daylight landing at South Gilboa served the visitors who arrived by airplane.

Each season thousands of summer guests arrived for a vacation. Many came with large trunks and stayed all season. Wealthy families, with nursemaids, came from Cuba and Latin America to stay at the two Cuban hotels. Some vacationists rented houses from Stamford residents, others purchased cottages, while the majority of guests enjoyed a stay at one of the "grand" hotels.

A yearning always prevailed for "The Queen," because the summer guests knew she would give them rest, superb food and drink, a marvelous time and all that their hearts desired. All this became theirs, temporarily leaving their day to day cares behind them, when they stayed at one of the grand hotels in the picturesque village of Stamford.

Each post card and memorabilia within the pages of this book has its own story to tell. This tribute to the "Queen of the Catskills," and her grand hotel era, will enable the reader to step back in time and relive those happy, golden days.

Yesterday's memories are today's treasures - enjoy them!

PREFACE

Often newcomers to Stamford will say, "I can't imagine what the village looked like during the days of the big summer hotels. I wish I could have seen it then!"

Thanks to this authoritative and charming book, that wish can be fulfilled. For me it brings back memories. Mrs. Bloodgood describes the village then from the point of view of the summer visitor. I, as a year-round resident, didn't have as close a view of the boarding houses and "boarders" as she did, but my life, as with all the hotels, was touched by them.

Many people depended on the summer influx of boarders to see themselves comfortably through the winter, whether by taking in roomers, serving them in the stores and places of entertainment, or providing farm produce.

We children also benefitted. My brothers had the row-boat concession on the Churchill Park Lakes. My sister and I would be called in from play, dressed in clean frocks, and be sent reluctantly around to the hotels carrying baskets of bunches of sweet peas to sell to the ladies rocking on the porches.

We Willis children also benefitted in a happier way. Our mother wrote the hotel publicity for the local newspaper, which allowed us free use of the hotel swimming pools, and free passes to the Rexmere water shows and Smalley's Theater.

Most of the big hotels are gone now, as are most of the big maples that lined Main Street. The Cold Spring pool is filling with dirt and bushes. The light that used to be a beacon on the mountain tower has gone out. Stamford is different now -- but still beautiful.

Anne Willis
Stamford Village Historian

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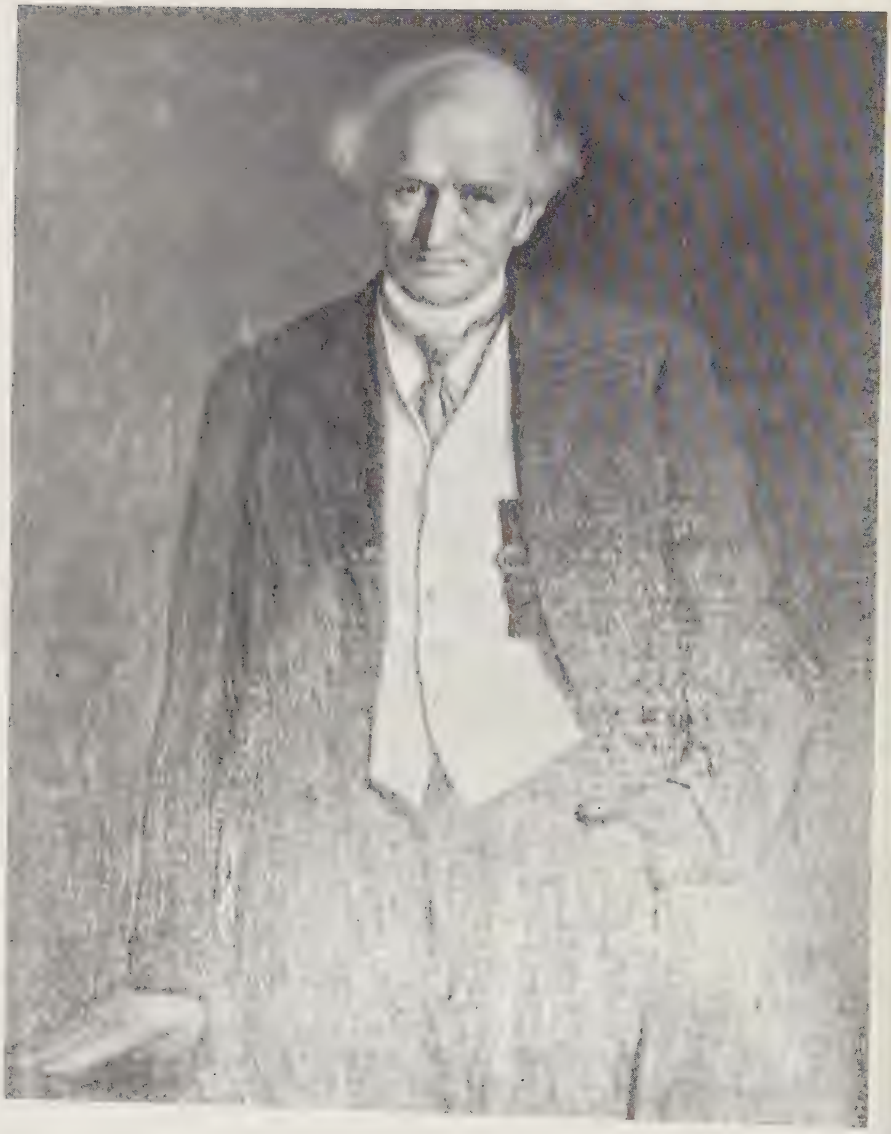
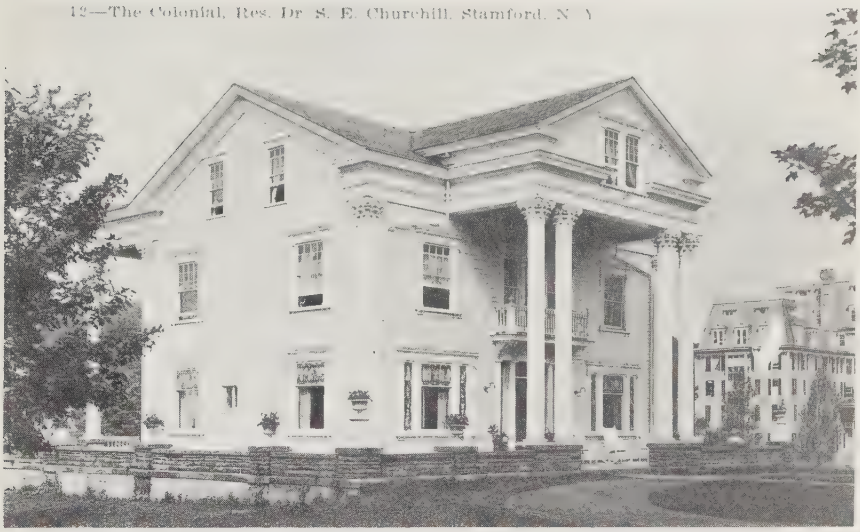


FAMOUS MAN — This painting of Dr. Stephen Churchill hangs in the Stamford Village Library. According to village historian Anne Willis, the portrait was painted in The Colonial, Dr. Churchill's former home next to the Rexmere, and is understood to be a good likeliness of the man, even to the pose. Interestingly enough, few photographs of probably Stamford's most famous citizen have survived to today.

Dr. Stephen E. Churchill



**"He lives best, who, when he is gone,
in the lives of others still lives on."**

The founder and developer of Stamford's hotel and boarding house era was Stephen E. Churchill, M.D. He was a native son of Stamford and one of its prominent physicians.

When Dr. Churchill learned that the Ulster and Delaware Railroad was extending its passenger service to Stamford, his intuition was to develop Stamford into a renowned summer resort, which he succeeded in doing.

Much of Stamford's success and progressive development was owed to Dr. Churchill's insight and determination to fulfill his dream. All the local people were eager to be a part of this new era, and they were. Many took in summer boarders. Large, "splendor," homes were built to accommodate more guests and spacious, impressive hotels were springing up everywhere in town.

As a result of Dr. Churchill's instincts, Stamford maintained its place as one of the East's leading mountain resorts for over sixty years.

Churchill Hall Dinner.

STAMFORD, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1889.

SOUP.

Beef, with Italian paste. Pouree of Clams.

FISH.

Boiled Salmon Mayonnaise.

BOILED.

Beef, a la braise. Ham. Corned Beef and Cabbage.
Mutton, with caper sauce. Tongue.

ENTREES.

Breast of Lamb, with tomato sauce. Chicken Curry, with rice.
Compote of Pears, with rice.

ROAST.

Ribs of Beef. Spring Chicken. Mutton, brown gravy
Spring Lamb, with mint sauce. Turkey, cranberry sauce.

COLD MEATS.

Roast Mutton. Roast Beef. Boiled Ham.
Boiled Corned Beef. Roast Lamb.

VEGETABLES.

Boiled New Potatoes. Stewed Tomatoes. Green Corn.
Mashed Potatoes. Sweet Potatoes. New Beets.

SALADS.

Chicken. Lobster.

RELISHES.

Worcestershire Sauce. Gherkins. Cold Slaw.
Sliced Tomatoes. Celery. Tomato Catsup.
Sliced Cucumbers. Olives. Lettuce. Pickles.

PASTRY.

Apple Pie. Apricot Pie. Blackberry Pie.
Plum Pudding. Cocoanut Pie.
Blanc Mange.

DESSERT.

Sponge Cake.
Vanilla Ice Cream. Pineapple Sherbet.
Tea. Coffee. Crackers. Cheese.

FRUIT.

Mixed Nuts. Apples. Pears. Grapes.

STAMFORD'S HOTEL ERA

One of the most memorable sights during Stamford's hotel era occurred each evening after dusk, when the hotels were illuminated with bright electric lights from the east end of Main Street, starting with the Cold Spring Farm Inn, to the west end at the Rexmere in Churchill Park. The reflections afforded Stamford's Main Street a very special glow. The lights from the hotels' porches, the steps, the entrance and around the grounds, radiated a brilliance of grandeur that not only gave one the feeling of welcome, but, protection from the evening's darkness. The soft glow of lights from within the many rooms of these spacious hotels, completely enhanced their beauty.

After dinner, which usually consisted of an eight course menu, and before the hotels' evening entertainment, many guests would enjoy a stroll along the well-lit Main Street. As they passed by the hotels, guests on the porches and on the front lawns, would nod to each other and perhaps pass a remark or two. Many of the hotel guests were regular visitors to Stamford, who returned year after year, and frequently recognized each other, if not by name, by face. Those who did not care to stroll were found in their "favorite rocking chair" just rocking away, while visiting with others doing the same thing, on the beautifully lit porches.

At the turn of the century and thereafter, entertainment and recreation at the hotels consisted of Charity Balls, Musicales, fashionable Pink Teas, progressive "euchre" card game parties, croquet and tennis tournaments. Nearly every summer hotel had its own tennis courts and croquet grounds.

The Athletic Grounds were conveniently located within the village and contained a fine baseball diamond and tennis courts. It was very popular for guests from the different hotels to hold baseball and tennis tournaments here.

A covered grand stand, seating several hundred people, gave a good view to the spectators. The grounds also contained a half-mile track for bicycling and horseback riding.

As time progressed, going to the top of Mt. Utsayantha was in vogue. In 1882, Colonel Rulif Ruliffson, constructed a road to the top of the mountain and erected an observation tower. Then in 1900, the Stamford Opera House was built, bringing a new area of cultural entertainment to the village. In the meantime, the hotels were adding more splendor to their structures and the automobiles and other modes of transportation were bringing thousands of happy, eager vacationers to Stamford. They were aware of the great times that were ahead of them, in this beautiful village cradled in the northern Catskills.

This grand era ended with World War II. For those with the memories, the love-affair still lingers on sweetly, with the "Queen of the Catskills."

During the height of the summer season, eight to ten passenger trains a day, stopped at this railroad station in Stamford

ARRIVING IN STAMFORD

On December 9, 1872, the first passenger train of the Ulster and Delaware Railroad arrived in the village of Stamford. It was also in 1872 that telegraph communications were established in the village, bringing the "Queen" in close touch with the outside world.

As the years progressed and Stamford flourished as a summer resort, the train schedule increased to accommodate the hotel and boarding house guests. When the trains were due to arrive they were met at the station by a large number of people, who either wanted to see the train come into the station or to meet one of the many passengers arriving for their summer vacation. The horse-drawn vehicles from all of the hotels were always on hand, to carry the new arrivals to their prospective hotels.

The U & D, added one more train to their schedule for Saturday nights -the "husbands' train." The husbands came to join their vacationing families for the weekend; they then would return to the city on an early Monday morning run.

Progress caused the hotel's horse-drawn vehicles to give way to the automobile. The hotels began meeting the guests at the railroad station with their new automobiles; taxis were also in evidence. "Meeting the train" was a happy and sometimes exciting event.

One also recalls, when the late morning mail train approached Stamford, everybody recognized it by the sound of the locomotive's whistle and the ringing of its bell as it echoed through the village. Daily, one could always count on seeing a large crowd of villagers and summer visitors, gathered in front of and on the front steps of the Stamford Village Hall (built in 1905). The Village Hall was located on the north side of main street and housed both the Post Office and the Fire Department trucks and its equipment. The people waited patiently for the mail truck to arrive at the Post Office, and their mail to be sorted out. Some of the summer visitors had their mail directed to "general delivery" at the post office, rather than to the hotel or boarding house where they were staying. It seemed, almost simultaneously, that the "noon" fire horn would blast, just as the Postmistress would raise open wide the Post Office window for business.

While waiting for the mail, it was always a great hour to meet friends, neighbors and other summer people, and visit and catch up on "the news" around the area. A glance up at the town clock was a must, to check "your time." A few years after the Village Town Hall was built, this clock was donated by the Johnson Family to fit into its tower.

Many years later, the only train that left for Stamford from Weehawken, New Jersey (opposite 42nd Street, New York City), was a 3:00 a.m. departure. It was known as the "milk train." It would reach Kingston with enough time for passengers to have a nice breakfast in the station house and board the 9:00 a.m. train for Stamford. The train arrived at Stamford mid-afternoon. As the train wove its way into the Catskills it would stop at the "creameries" to take on water for the locomotive's steam boilers, and at the railroad stations along the way to pick up additional passengers. It was a long but breath-taking scenic ride through the mountains.

As time passed, and the rivalry between the railroad, automobile and bus service to Stamford grew, the passenger train service decreased. The U & D was sold to the New York Central Railroad, which continued passenger service until April 1, 1954. On that day, the Kingston Rotary Club hosted a farewell trip to Stamford. The Rotarians were met at 10:30 a.m. at the Stamford Railroad Station by the Stamford Rotary Club and other dignitaries, and together they had dinner at the Delaware Inn.

Since the "mail train" had been discontinued, the mail was then transported by trucks. Within a short time, mail delivery services began for the homes and businesses in the village of Stamford.

Everything must come to an end, and so it was of the passenger train service on the Catskill Mountain bound New York Central. Stamford School Band and a large crowd witnessed the "last train" in the spring of 1954.

The Stamford Hotels and Boarding Houses of Yesteryear 1883-1942

CHURCHILL HALL
The First of the Hotels

The dream of Dr. Stephen E. Churchill to establish the village of Stamford as a leading summer resort, was at last realized on July 4, 1883, with the opening of his own newly built resort hotel, CHURCHILL HALL.

Churchill Hall was centrally located on the south side of Main Street, the mainstream of Stamford's activities. The hotel was very beautiful, impressive and spacious. By 1899, the whole complex of Churchill Hall consisted of four buildings linked together with a network of porches. Each building had its own "modern conveniences."

To allow Churchill Hall and the other forthcoming hotels and boarding houses to have these modern conveniences, a water and sewerage system had to be installed in Stamford. Up to this time, water had been supplied to the villagers, by wells on their properties. It took a great deal of effort and determination on Dr. Churchill's part, to get this important matter underway. Without this new system, the idea of Stamford becoming a summer resort, would be out of the question. The village water company was formed in December, 1880, and Dr. Churchill was made the first president; it began functioning in 1881. In 1893, a very complete sewer and drainage system was built, the pipes being flushed automatically, daily.

The initial reservoir was adequate until 1924. In that year, a much larger reservoir replaced the first one, in order to take care of the great demands put on Stamford's water supply during the peak summer months. The reservoir furnished Stamford with a pure and wholesome supply of water and excellent fire protection, which gave the village one of the finest water supplies in the state.

The winter prior to its opening, Dr. Churchill placed advertisements in the New York City newspapers, advertising Churchill Hall and promoting Stamford, as a perfect way to spend a healthy, enjoyable vacation. Churchill Hall was filled to capacity from its opening day, July 4, 1883, until it closed for the season. Every season, thereafter was the same.

Dr. Churchill realized the hotel had to expand. In 1890, he had another building built, the East Hall, and in 1892, the West Hall was erected. In 1899, the Hamilton House, that stood to the east of Churchill Hall, was acquired by Dr. Churchill and was joined to its main building by the porches. It is said, that the total cost of Churchill Hall came to $113,000.

Over the span of years, Churchill Hall's fine reputation grew. The hotel's fame brought people from far and wide to its doors. The "guest book" contained signatures of some very noted people. The majority of the hotel guests returned year after year. If Churchill Hall was "booked to capacity," vacationers would stay at one of the other hotels in the village.

Between 1890 and 1893, twelve other hotels were built in Stamford. By the mid 1900's, there were 32 hotels and boarding houses in operation. The economy of Stamford thrived. The summer hotel and boarding house business had become a major source of income to the area.

Dr. Churchill died in 1917. In September, 1919, Churchill Hall and the Rexmere, also owned by Dr. Churchill, was sold to N.P. Young, H.H. Mase and Arthur Hume. In later years, Churchill Hall became known as the MASELYN.

Churchill Hall, Stamford-In-The-Catskills, New York.

THE MASELYN

The Maselyn, under the ownership and management of H.H. Mase, operated successfully up until the day it closed its doors in 1942.

The Maselyn moved with the changing of the times, just like all the other hotels did. The hotel's staff functioned with the same efficient pride and manner that had made the hotel famous.

During the day, the guests had plenty to do for their own entertainment. There was daytime hiking, boating, swimming, tennis, golf and horseback riding. In the evening, after a gourmet dinner, there were dances, concerts, lectures, summer theatre, movies and bridge tournaments. Brilliant affairs were continuously being arranged for the delight of the guests.

The Maselyn Dining Room was located on the lower level of the main building, with large picture windows that faced Main Street. If one was walking by the Maselyn during the dinner hour, it was a very pleasing sight to view the dining room staff serving its guests their gourmet dinners in this beautifully furnished room, with its well appointed tables and soft lights.

A highlight of the season, was the Fashion Show that was put on by a local dress shop at the MASELYN, on a Sunday in August. A ramp was erected from the front porch of the main building to the main sidewalk, for the models to walk and show their attire, as the Show Coordinator described each outfit with the aid of a microphone from the main porch. The hotel guests watched the Fashion Show while seated on the Maselyn's porches and its front lawns. Others watched the show from the front of the Village Town Hall, directly across the street.

Also, during the season, the Ladies Guild of Stamford's Grace Episcopal Church held an "all day" Church Bazaar on the Maselyn's lawn, selling handmade items and baked goods. It was always very well attended, and the vacationers and villagers looked forward to it each summer.

It was this warm, friendly feeling between the summer people and the residents of Stamford that made the "Queen of the Catskills" so popular, and why everyone returned to her each year. Here old ties were renewed, as well as new and lasting friendships formed.

Windemere and Loch Helen, Stamford, N.Y.

CHURCHILL PARK

Dr. Churchill was always looking for ways to improve Stamford and to advance the summer resort business. In 1884, he purchased a parcel of land to the west of the village. This land, just a few years earlier, was almost inaccessible farm land, filled with dilapidated walls and swamps. Through great outlay and tireless efforts, the Doctor had it cleared and beautified into a park. The scenic landscape became the most outstanding in the area. Four beautiful lakes were built on its stream; their names were Loch Helen, Loch Alice, Loch Vesta and Loch Marion, named after Dr. Churchill's nieces. The beautification was completed in 1897. An elegant wrought-iron arch was erected over the entrance to the park, bearing the name in gold letters, CHURCHILL PARK. The Arch was taken down in the early 1980's due to the difficulty the street crews had in plowing around it after a heavy snowstorm.

The Park became one of the most popular places to stroll, or for the equestrians to enjoy a canter. The lakes, the bridges, the drives through the woods and along the lakes, were the perfect places for an outing. Here was found coolness, quiet and natural beauty, which made it an ideal retreat. The hotel guests enjoyed boating on the four lakes. Canoes and small light boats were available to them, if they wanted to row or paddle. One of the pleasure trips that the Churchill Hall management offered their guests, was an "over-night excursion" to the Park. They had the experience of roughing it, so to speak, by camping out in tents provided for them by the hotel. Before turning in, the guests would sit around a campfire and exchange stories about the day's events or other interesting tales. One of the most beautiful walks near the lakes was Lover's Lane, where also was found the famous Rexmere Spring, whose pure, crystal water was sought by everyone. The beauty of Churchill Park was a challenge to any artist's skill, to reproduce it on canvas.

Stone Arches and Loch Marion, Stamford-in-the-Catskills.

Lochmere and Loch Vesta, Churchill Park, Stamford, N.Y.

Loch Alice courtesy of the Stamford Village Library Association.

Rexmere Spring, Churchill Park, Stamford-in-the Catskills.

"Putting on the sixth green," Rexmere Golf Grounds, Stamford, N.Y.

Swimming Pool, Stamford, N.Y.

THE REXMERE

Dr. Churchill's next project was to build a more modern hotel in Churchill Park, for the people of wealth, who desired accommodations above the ordinary. It was to be more magnificent than Churchill Hall. The Doctor designed the hotel himself and called it the Rexmere - "King of the Meadows." Along with the Rexmere, several summer cottages also were built, to be rented out during each summer season.

On much of the land, owned by Dr. Churchill, were forests and great supplies of lumber. Utilizing his resources in a meaningful way, the Doctor's spruce and hemlock trees were used in the construction of the structures and the timber was sawed at his own mill. Much of the stone used in the building process also came from his vast acreage.

The Rexmere opened July 15, 1898. It was the most prestigious hotel in Stamford...the local Show Place. It was a hotel of distinction, known for its gala festivities and its atmosphere of refinement. The Rexmere guest enjoyed all the fruits of very fine living and the ultimate in superb service and dining. The Social Director saw to all their needs. The majority of the guests arrived at the Rexmere in their chauffeured limousines. They were greeted at the entrance, by the sight of two life-size bronze lions, standing on each side of the steps, like a welcoming committee and protector, of the premises.

The Rexmere had all the up to date facilities: bathrooms, steam heat, electricity and the first elevator of its kind in Delaware County. Every room had outside exposure and all were cozy, light and airy with delightful outlooks in every direction. The chef, the bellhops and the music director, all came from leading hotels in New York City.

On Sunday evenings, the Rexmere always presented a program of concert music with a guest soloist. Guests from the other hotels were welcome to attend these concerts. The performance of the ensemble brought great enjoyment to the audience, also an appreciation of listening to finished music and voice, in a relaxed but formal atmosphere.

Each season at the Rexmere was always highly successful. They continuously maintained the hotel's capacity of accommodating 350 guests.
The Rexmere housed quite a few famous people in its career, including Glenn Curtis (an early aircraft pioneer), Julia Marlowe (a Shakespearean actress), David Warfield (an early movie actor) and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.

In 1900, on the east side of Churchill Park, on both sides of the entrance road, the Rexmere laid out a golf course for the pleasure of its summer guests. In 1910, a swimming pool was built on the lower, southeast end of

Churchill Park. Many water shows were held at the pool, with aquatic performances by such stars as Johnny Weismuller, Stubby Krueger, Arnie Borg, Ethel Lackie, Buster Crabbe, Helen Meany and Alexander Ott and his son, Jackie. One of the highlights of the water shows was the Alligator Wrestling Act, it brought glee, suspense and thrill to the audiences.

Johnny Weismuller was a swimming instructor at the pool from 1926 to 1929. He then went on to become an Olympic "Gold Medal" swimmer, and later became famous in the role of Tarzan which he portrayed in the motion pictures.

Leading newspapers carried feature stories about the swimming pool's well known water shows and the annual bathing beauty contest that was held each August to select "Miss Catskill Mountain." These stories, as well as the other social event stories that ran in the papers, brought fame and popularity to Stamford and its hotels.

The Rexmere swimming pool was open to anyone who desired to swim in it. While the guests from the Churchill Hall/Maselyn Hotel and the Rexmere were able to swim for free, the general public was charged a small admission fee to the pool...50¢.

In 1919, the Rexmere was sold to N.P. Young of Brooklyn, New York and Stamford. Upon N.P. Young's death, the Rexmere was owned by his daughter Madeline. The hotel remained open until 1954, when it was sold by Madeline Young to a religious order at Esopus, New York.

Today, it is the Frank W. Cyr Educational Center.

The Rexmere, Stamford, N.Y.

STAMFORD ARMS HOTEL
"A Hotel Worthy of Stamford"

The Stamford Arms Hotel, originally named Greycourt Inn, was located on Main Street, just west of the Churchill Hall/Maselyn Hotel. Though it was in the center of the village, the hotel was set far enough back from the street, to eliminate the noise and the distraction of the business atmosphere, one wanted to avoid when on vacation.

The capacity of the Stamford Arms, was 150 guests. It catered to the tourist as well as the weekly guest, who could either be on the American Plan (with meals) or the European Plan (without meals). The guest rooms were with or without baths and all had hot and cold running water.

The management always felt that one's first impression of the hotel was a lasting one and after a visit, their memories would be pleasant ones. The Stamford Arms Hotel had a homelike atmosphere and the management prided itself on the comfort and services it rendered to its guests.

The hotel had a delightful, spacious and immaculately kept porch. It brought many hours of enjoyment to the guests, who liked nothing better than sitting and visiting with others on it, or watching the activities on Main Street.

Beyond the main entrance door, there was a large lobby, adjacent to which could be found attractive, comfortably furnished sitting rooms, as well as a reception room and also a writing room and one for playing cards.

Stamford Arms Hotel, Stamford, N.Y. In the Catskills.

The spacious dining rooms had individual tables for the guests. Its staff was proud of the excellent, well prepared food it served and the polite, fine service it rendered.

Besides the formal dining rooms, within the hotel was a coffee shoppe and Grill named the "Judy Friendly." The food was very tasty and its service efficient. Dancing was a nightly feature in the Grill.

The management of the Stamford Arms Hotel assured its guests, that while they made their vacation stay with them, they would be afforded, to the fullest extent, a place to sleep soundly, eat well, relax cofortably and enjoy all the social and sports activities available to them; and that they did.

In the interim of years the Stamford Arms Hotel was torn down. On its site today, stands a gas station.

Delaware House, Stamford, N.Y. F.M. Tingley, Prop.

DELAWARE INN

The Delaware Inn was originally known as the Delaware House and later changed to Ye Olde Delaware Inn, before the name was shortened to its present one.

When entering the village from the east, the Delaware Inn will be located on the right side of Main Street. It is the most noted landmark in Stamford and is the oldest remaining structure in the village today.

The Delaware Inn was built in 1804, about the time that the Catskill and Susquehanna Turnpike opened. It was a small building, partly store and partly tavern. It served as a stagecoach stop on the Catskill and Susquehanna Turnpike which extended from Catskill to Unadilla, a distance of ninety miles. At a later date, the Delaware Inn housed the Post Office. The Delaware Inn continuously ran, since 1813, as a well known old colonial type inn, with a fine reputation for its excellent food, drink, service and accommodations. It was in the 1820's, that the Innkeeper, Thomas Montgomery, named the hotel Delaware House.

Before the water and sewerage system was installed in Stamford (1883), water was obtained by the Delaware Inn from a well, east of it, and from a well in the center of the street, in front of the hotel; the water was brought up by a pump.

Through the years, several additions were added to the Delaware Inn, to meet the demands of its guests and to house its staff. There were twenty eight guest rooms. Several of the guest rooms had private baths, but the majority just had "running water." Bathroom facilities were spaced, to be convenient to all guest rooms with "running water" on each of the two sleeping floors. In each of the comfortably furnished guest rooms, there was a long heavy rope made of mohair bolted to the floor, near a window. In case of fire, the guests could escape by using the rope, descending out the window to safety. Modern fire escapes were later installed in the rear of the hotel.

The most notable guest who slept at the Delaware Inn, was Theodore Roosevelt, who at the time was Police Commissioner of New York City. When Buffalo Bill's Road Show performed at the Athletic Field, his Indians slept on the ballroom floor over the kitchen wing.

The Inn, as many refer to it, was open year round. It catered to transients, tourists and permanent boarding guests. It was a very warm, homelike hotel, with an atmosphere of hospitality everywhere, and whose guests returned every year, some staying for the entire summer season. In the peak of its years, during July and August, there were two sittings in the dining room to accommodate everyone. When it was time for the dining

room to open for lunch and dinner, a waitress would come out to the center porch and "ring out" with a large dinner bell. Those who had to wait for the second seating, usually waited on the porch, "rocking away" in one of the rocking chairs provided for the guests, or in the sitting room in a large comfortable chair, until the bell rang again.

The Inn's reputation was so fine, that traveling salesmen whose territories covered the northern Catskills, would make it a point to come and stay overnight - usually Wednesdays. There was a large round table in the dining room known as the "salesmens' table," where the men would have dinner together and perhaps exchange some notes.

The Stamford Rotary Club met at the Inn every week. On other occasions, local annual dinner affairs also took place there. It was the gathering place for all, drawn by the warm, congenial atmosphere. When the annual Invitational Golf Tournament took place at the Stamford Country Club during mid-August, quite a few of the out of town golfers stayed at the Inn.

The Delaware Inn was closed for the duration of World War II, but it did reopen after the war. Before it closed its doors again, in the late 1970's the Inn had several Innkeepers. The present owner is hoping to have the Delaware Inn designated as a New York State Historical landmark, and before it reopens, he would like to recreate the 18th century character of the Delaware Inn and restore it to its historical integrity.

"Ye Old Delaware Inn," Stamford-in-the-Catskills, N.Y.

KENDALL PLACE

Kendall Place was owned and managed by Mr. and Mrs. F. Kendall. It was located on South Delaware Street, the head of which is directly across from the Delaware Inn on East Main Street. Its season was from May to November. The Kendall's advertised private baths for each room, superior cuisine and every amusement. The hotel was situated a short distance from the village, affording its guests the added advantage of viewing the beautiful scenery of the Delaware Valley and its pastoral countryside. If the guests enjoyed walking, their stroll was on a rural country road, amidst dairy farms whose herds could be seen grazing in nearby pastures.

The following is a story that had been told by a late resident of Stamford, when she and her husband were having dinner at Kendall Place back in the early 1900's; when the electric lights were in their infancy in Stamford (lights arrived in 1892):

They had been invited to a dinner party at Kendall Place. There was over one hundred guests present, and at six o'clock dinner was being served. The first few helpings of the turkey had been brought in, when the lights failed. The owner of the Stamford Electric Company was among the guests present. He jumped up from his place at the table in great excitement, and left the hotel to find out the source of the trouble. In the meantime, Mrs. Kendall and her helpers brought out all the kerosene lamps available and proceeded with serving the dinner. Just as the last serving was brought in, the lights flashed on, and the Electric Company owner returned, a much happier man, and ready for his dinner.

After the dinner, the guests were entertained with the popular card game, six handed euchre.

It was interesting to learn that in the early 1900's the street lights went off at midnight, so it was necessary to reach home before then, or face the task of finding your way in the dark. Many of the homes and stores of the village had not converted to electric lights and were still using kerosene lamps.

Kendall Place remained a very successful resort to the end. It was eventually torn down, and today in its place stands a private home.

Below Kendall Place, in later years, an after-dinner night club was opened, called "Eagle's Nest." It was a very popular spot, bringing much enjoyment to many of the summer guests and the local people.

The night club, a converted barn, was located on the property once owned by Colonel E.Z.C. Judson. The Stamford born Colonel was a famous writer of Dime Novels, who wrote under the pen name of Ned Buntline. Colonel

Judson, a man of wealth, spent part of his life in the west; he returned to Stamford and married a native Stamford girl, Anne Fuller. The Judson's resided in the home built for them in 1871; the Colonel nicknamed it "Eagle's Nest," after his log cabin in the Adirondacks. They lived in the area, up to the day of Colonel Judson, "Ned Buntline's" passing, July 16, 1886.

Kendall Place, Stamford, N.Y. — In the Catskills - 1840 feet.

The Eagle's Nest, Stamford, New York.

SANFORD LODGE

Sanford Lodge, owned by R.M. Sanford, was located beyond Kendall Place on South Delaware Street, and accommodated fifty guests. Their advertisements stated, the Lodge was pleasantly situated two miles from the Ulster and Delaware railroad station. Its elevation was 2,050 feet and commanded an excellent view of the Delaware Valley and the surrounding countryside, especially from the Sanford Lodge's 100 feet of wide veranda.

This newly built boarding house, was equipped with modern hot air heat. It had all the modern conveniences, electric lights and a lovely open fireplace.

The grounds were spacious and well shaded by beautiful large trees. The guests enjoyed, as a form of recreation, lawn bowling and croquet on the side lawns.

Sanford Lodge maintained their own herd of Jersey cows, which supplied their guests daily with pure milk and cream. Fresh vegetables and fruit in season, were always served on the table.

Since the Lodge was a few miles from the village, they had available to the guests, automobiles and carriages, for reasonable rates. The guests, who took advantage of this opportunity, not only had the convenience of going into the village, but also to take one of the many beautiful drives through the countryside. The "ride around the block" brought them back to the Lodge, but by another scenic route.

Sanford Lodge operated successfully through the years. In the interim of time it has been torn down and the site today is an unoccupied lot.

Sanford Lodge. Small building in rear Bowling Alley.

Cold Spring Farm Inn, Stamford-in-the-Catskills, N.Y.

"A Hay Ride in the Catskills."

COLD SPRING FARM INN

As one might surmise from its name, Cold Spring Farm Inn was originally a farm. The "Cold Spring," as it came to be called, had its own dairy, and not only supplied itself with its dairy needs, but also made deliveries to residents and establishments within the village.

Cold Spring Farm Inn was located on the north side of East Main Street; it was the first hotel one would see when entering Stamford from the east. The Inn's season was from May 1st to November 1st. Guests were assured complete satisfaction, pleasant association and memories.

The hotel was advertised as being the most homelike, convenient and attractive in Stamford. All rooms had hot and cold running water, many with baths. They had a delightful cuisine and a comfort that was distinctive. There was a swimming pool on the rear grounds, where the guests could enjoy sun bathing and a swim. Directly across the road from "Cold Spring" were the tennis courts. These courts were continuously being used daily, by many of the guests, who liked nothing better than to enjoy a fast game of tennis and then head for the pool to cool off and relax. Another delight, were the "hayrides" that were offered to its guests. Cold Spring was the only hotel in Stamford, that afforded their guests this fun pleasure.

In 1966 the hotel converted their barn into an after-dinner night club, known as the Loft. The Loft became a part of the pleasant memories, for many people.

Cold Spring Farm Inn operated as a summer hotel until the 1960's. In 1969 new owners renovated the structure and are operating it as an apartment complex today.

Hotel Habana, Stamford, N.Y. Sanchez & Morante Props.

Simpson Terrace

THE CUBAN HOTELS

Wealthy families, including nursemaids for their children, traveled from Cuba and South America, to enjoy the summer season in Stamford. The majority stayed at the two strictly Cuban hotels, the Hotel Habana and Perla de Cuba. Both of the hotels were located within the village, and within walking distance to everything.

The Hotel Habana was originally the Hotel Simpson Terrace, and was located on Prospect Street at the head of North Delaware Street. The Habana was noted for its open Palm Garden and dining verandas. It had accommodations for seventy five guests.

The Perla de Cuba was first opened in 1912 and was located on River Street. Their season was from May to October. The hotel's excellent food gained the Perla de Cuba a high reputation. The hotel had available all the conventional amusements for the pleasure of its guests.

The Cubans and South Americans were welcome to stay at the other hotels in the village. They attended and took part in the activities and social affairs that were being offered during their stay. They enjoyed bowling at the local bowling alley on South Street...especially, a game or two of "duck pins."

Many bonds of friendships were formed through the summer months between the Cubans, South Americans, other summer guests and villagers. A marriage took place between a Stamford girl and a gentleman from Cuba. They established a home near Havana, but spent the summer months in Stamford.

There was a period of time when the Cubans did not vacation in Stamford. It was during the 1933 Revolutionary War, that they did not leave their homeland of Cuba. When the rebellion ended, the Cubans returned to Stamford for their summer vacations. The start of World War II, preempted their trips to Stamford once again.

Both of these hotels have been torn down.

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW HOUSE

The Mountain View House was located on Academy Street, just above Main Street. Its higher elevation gave its guests a beautiful view of Mt. Utsayantha and the Delaware Valley. It was close to all the stores, churches and amusements, but yet, far enough away from the business section of the village, to assure the guests a quiet rest. Mountain View House had all the advantages of the larger hotels with its appointments and service, but it offered a more homelike atmosphere.

The hotel had its own house orchestra for the dancing pleasure of its guests. They also performed for many other occasions which took place on the premises.

The food served to its guests was of the highest quality. Mountain View House prided itself on its ability to provide fresh vegetables from its own garden, fruit when in season and pure Delaware County milk, cream, eggs and butter to the guests it served in the dining room. The hotel's own ice house, was utilized for bulk refrigeration and for ice for the convenience of the guests and for use during the meal hours.

June 1st was the opening date of the Mountain View House season and it closed in early fall, after the foliage had turned. They maintained, with pride, the same excellent personal service and cuisine, that brought their guests back, year after year.

Mountain View House is now owned privately.

Mountain View House, Stamford, N.Y.

THE INGLESIDE

The Ingleside is located on Academy Street, across the way from the former Mountain View House. The hotel still operates as a hotel, under another name and ownership.

The Ingleside, because of its higher elevation from the village, gave its guests a beautiful view of Mt. Utsayantha and the Delaware Valley, just as the Mountain View House did. It also, was close to all the stores, churches and amusements, but yet, far enough away from the business section of the village, to assure the guests quiet and rest.

The Ingleside was always noted for its home atmosphere and excellent cuisine. It offered its guests, the same recreational activities as the other hotels offered, in addition to a game called "clock golf." The guest rooms available at this delightful, large and spacious hotel, were either single or double, with or without private bath.

The Ingleside, surrounded by shade trees and a well kept lawn, was also enhanced by a large veranda and a piazza. The guests found many hours of enjoyment, utilizing these porches during their stay.

The Ingleside Stamford-in-the-Catskills, New York. C.W. Hall Mgr.

Ivanhurst, Stamford, N.Y.

Living room, the Ivanhurst, Stamford, N.Y.

THE IVANHURST

The Ivanhurst was a beautiful, spacious, roomy home, located at the intersection of Harper and Lake Streets, at the west end of Stamford. It offered everything in the way of comfort, good food and pleasure and was conveniently located. The guest rooms had hot and cold running water, and private bath accommodations were also available. Provisions could also be made for maids and chauffeurs.

The well appointed dining room's service and food was the very best. To the transient guests, they had available a special daily service from 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.

The Ivanhurst was a short distance from Churchill Park and the Rexmere swimming pool, making it an ideal daytime stroll for their guests. The village business section, which was in the opposite direction, was also close enough for the guests to walk.

The Ivanhurst today, is an Adult Home.

The Maple Rest, Stamford, N.Y. in the Catskill Mts.

MAPLE REST

The Maple Rest was a lovely country, homelike, boarding house located across the way from the Ivanhurst on Harper Street. The house had electric lights, airy guest rooms, garage facilities and was conveniently located to the business section of the village. A riding stable was near at hand as was the West End Bowling Alley on South Street...Churchill Park and Rexmere swimming pool were but a short stroll away...all for the guest's recreational pleasures.

The food was always known to be excellent at the Maple Rest. The milk and cream was delivered daily to them by the local dairyman from "Mountain Dairy."

The Maple Rest was torn down, and on its site stands a gas station.

NEW GRANT HOUSE

The New Grant House was located just above the Hotel Westholm, at the intersection of West Main and Lake Streets.

It was a large, well constructed hotel of Victorian architecture, with a spacious porch and several balconies on the above floors. The hotel was surrounded by a well kept lawn with shade trees. The children who were guests of the New Grant House, enjoyed frolicking on the grass, under the watchful eyes of their parents or nursemaids. The interior of the hotel was beautifully furnished throughout. The New Grant House offered its guests the same recreational opportunities as offered by the other hotels, in addition to the billiard tables on the premises. Their cuisine was unsurpassed. Their season ran from June to early September.

The New Grant House operated as a summer hotel until the early 1960's. The structure was razed in 1967.

New Grant House, Stamford-in-the-Catskills.

PEACOCK ALLEY is a bit of Broadway in the Catskills, and a distinct hit with The WESTHOLM'S guests, particularly with those with restless toes, and the vim of youth in their beings. This famous cabaret is the livest spot in town, and as to atmosphere, it's a joy just to be there. The Peacock nomer is well earned.

A wonderful dance floor, charming furnishings, a kitchen that offers irresistable delicacies, and an orchestra that hails direct from Broadway– no wonder Peacock Alley is thronged nightly! When evening comes, at The WESTHOLM, you cannot sigh "Nothing to do." The "Alley" carries the joys of the day into the night. And it is so located that those in other parts of the house cannot be annoyed by the frivolity.

Courtesy of the Stamford Village Library Association.

THE WESTHOLM
"The hotel with a home atmosphere is a joy to find when traveling"

The Westholm was located on West Main Street. The guests were very convenient to the stores, churches and the two libraries. The sports-minded guest, had close at hand the West End Bowling Alley on South Street, the Rexmere swimming pool, riding stables on Harper Street, the tennis courts and the nearby lakes for boating. The walkers had the choice of doing Main Street or Churchill Park. The Stamford Country Club was a short drive away, for those who enjoyed a round of golf.

The Westholm took pride in serving excellent food. The cheerfulness of the dining room added much enjoyment to the meals. After the dinner hour, the hotel's orchestra provided music for dancing in Peacock Alley, the Westholm's famous cabaret.

The guest rooms, as well as the Westholm itself, were attractively furnished. Every guest room was exposed to sunlight, fresh air and beautiful scenery. There were private baths available with some of the rooms. The lobby and parlors, with their cozy corners, fireplaces and spaciousness lended complete relaxation to the vacationist.

Under new ownership and name, the hotel is still in business, and open all year.

The Westholm, Stamford, N.Y.

THE ATCHINSON

The Atchinson was located at the entrance of Churchill Park and was owned and operated by Mrs. Daisy Atchinson. It was one of the established hotels in Stamford and its management had many years of experience in entertaining summer visitors. The house was modern throughout, furnished in good taste and had all the modern conveniences. The Atchinson prided itself in the quality and quantity of the meals it served its guests. The dairy and garden products were supplied from their own garden. The specialty of the house was their chicken dinners.

The Atchinson was near the center of town and all the summer activities. Their season ran from June to October.

Today, The Atchinson is privately owned.

The Atchinson, Stamford, N.Y.

THE MADISON

The Madison was owned by A.W. Billings, and was located in a section of Stamford, on Lake Street, called Granthurst Park. Its elevation, overlooked the village of Stamford and gave the guests a beautiful view of Mt. Utsayantha and the Delaware Valley. The hotel was situated within walking distance to Churchill Park and Stamford's Main Street. The guests who wished to play golf at the Stamford Country Club, were within a five minute drive from the links.

The Madison was of a stately structure, with a spacious piazza and several balconies. The lawn surrounding the hotel was extensive with an abundance of shade from the trees on it. Much to the delight of the ardent tennis player, there were fine tennis courts on the premises, for a good game to be played and observed by the other guests.

There was hot and cold running water in all the rooms. Rooms were available as singles or doubles, with or without bath. Garage facilities for the automobiles were also available.

The Madison had its own gardens and farm. Daily the guests could look forward, at each table sitting, to eating fresh vegetables, fruits, milk, cream, butter, eggs and poultry.

The Madison offered their clientele the same mode of entertainment as the other hotels. The guests also enjoyed the pleasures of attending featured events in the village, at the Country Club, the Opera House, and nearby hotels.

Today, the structure is privately owned.

The Madison, Stamford, N.Y.

CHATEAU de NAVARRE

The Chateau de Navarre, built in 1897, was located on upper Lake Street, not far from the village. It was the private residence of Dr. Bristol. In 1922, it was purchased by W. Leman, who established it as a hotel. The brown shingled hotel had a single turret (small tower), on its west side, and a veranda over 150 feet wide. The architect who designed Dr. Bristol's home, fashioned it after a chateau he had seen in Navarre, Spain.

The hotel was situated on approximately four acres of land. On the grounds was a private maple park, with many beds of flowers. It was the ideal setting for relaxing or partaking in some form of recreation. A stone fence, with a statue of a lion at the entrance and a beautiful flower urn, bordered the property, adding a stateliness to the premises.

The guest rooms were large, well lighted and ventilated, and the hotel had all the modern conveniences.

The guests were served a very fine menu consisting of the best fresh eggs, milk and cream from a nearby dairy and fresh fruit and vegetables in season, from the nearby farms.

Like all the hotels, the Chateau de Navarre provided entertainment for its guests.

The Stamford Country Club was a short distance from the hotel and everyone could view the entire 18-hole course from there.

Today, the Stamford Baptist Church is situated on the land that was occupied by the Chateau de Navarre.

CRAFT FARM HOUSE

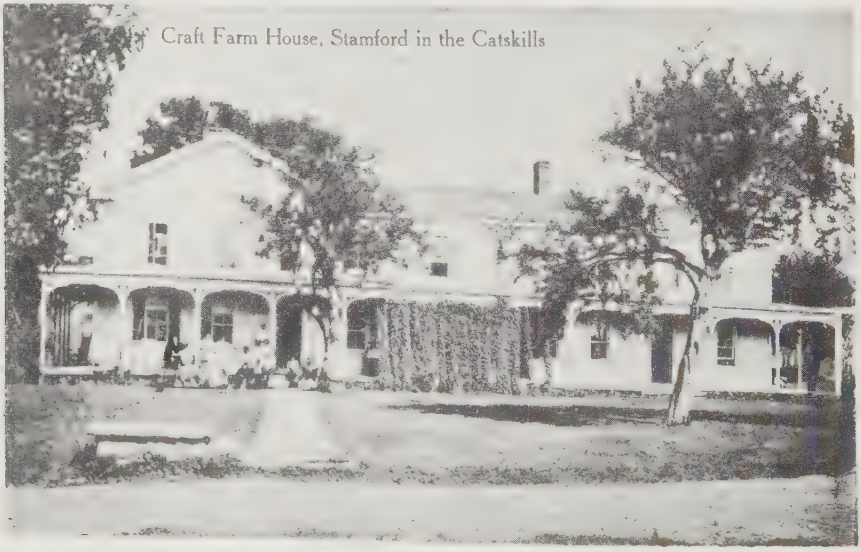
The Craft Farm House was located on the west side of Route 10, beyond the Madison Hotel and situated at the entrance of Country Club Road. It was well known for its fine reputation as a boarding house as well as being a landmark for making the left turn to the Country Club.

The Craft Farm House was very pleasant, and the guest rooms most comfortable. Those who returned each year, as well as the newcomers, looked forward to a delightful stay. The surroundings were quiet and peaceful, and in tune with the natural scenery that abounded around the property.

The Craft's took pride in the meals they served their guests. The vegetables and fruits were home grown. The Farm had its own dairy, which supplied the table with the poultry, eggs, milk and cream.

The Craft Farm House guests were ideally located to take lengthy walks, along the nearby country lanes. They also had the usual recreation at the House; such as playing croquet, badminton, card games, etc., and of course a ride into the village for shopping, a movie, or a performance at the Opera House which added to their pleasure. There were also, many "rides around the block," the guests enjoyed the beautiful local scenic views, that were, and are seemingly endless and breathtaking.

Today, the Craft Farm House is privately owned.



Craft Farm House, Stamford in the Catskills.

CRAIG GOWAN

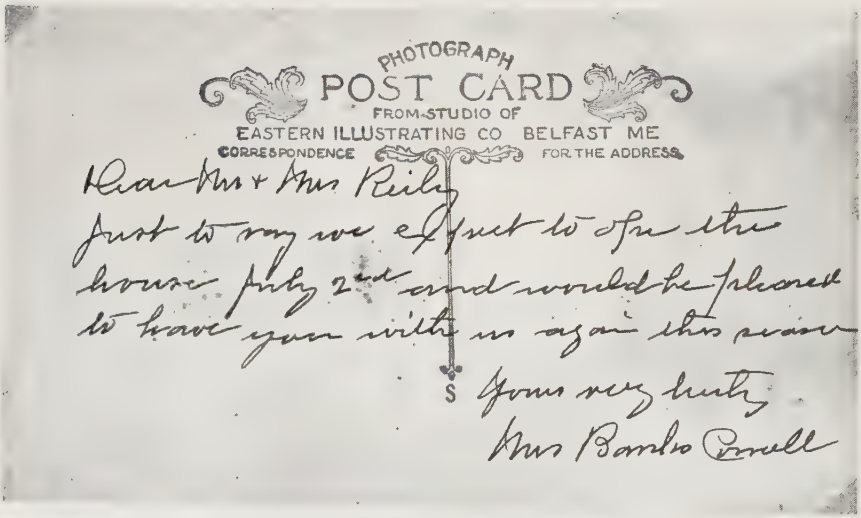
In its advertisement, Craig Gowan, in the late 1920's, made it known, it was Stamford's newest Hostelry and was available to a few select guests who wanted to be "at home."

Craig Gowan, situated on a daisy-clad hill within the village of Stamford, which location its Scotch name describes, was a private estate opened to the public at the request of many Stamford visitors who admired its superb location. It overlooked the village and the chain of picturesque lakes in Churchill Park. Craig Gowan was very accessible to the Stamford Country Club and the center of town. It catered to a limited number of people, but was not "exclusive."

On September 29, 1932, Craig Gowan, built in 1890, along with a seven acre tract of land, was given to the Village of Stamford by its owner, Mrs. Margaret Bathgate Becker and transformed into Bathgate Hospital, equipped with twenty three beds on two floors.

Craig Gowan and Lower Churchill Lake, Stamford-in-the-Catskills.

The Cornell, Stamford, N.Y.



THE CORNELL HOUSE

The Cornell House was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Banks Cornell. The Cornell's home was the structure on the left of the postcard; in the early 1900's Banks Cornell had the hotel structure added. It was one of the hotels in Stamford that catered first to the summer guests from Cuba, and later to the guests who came from the New York City area. The guests stayed for the season, a month or several weeks. If they came by public transportation, upon notification an auto from the house would meet them, free of charge. The Cornell House was located within one-half mile of the village, on Bruce Hill Road. The Road, laid west of Stamford, off of the Oneonta Road within walking distance to everything in the village.

The Proprietor's motto was, "Modern and Moderate;" the slogan, "A Delightful Home for One Seeking a Restful Vacation."

The Cornell House was situated 200 feet above Stamford. The house accommodated sixty guests. It had a broad, shady piazza. There were large airy rooms, many of which connected. There were bathrooms with hot and cold water and perfect sanitary facilities, pure spring water running in the house, and electric lights in every room. It was noted for its good, tasty, wholesome home-cooking, the table being supplied with fresh vegetables, fruit, chickens, turkey, eggs, milk and butter furnished by nearby farms. It had a commanding view of the Country Club House and the entire golf course and Churchill Park with its beautiful drives, chain of lakes, and the Rexmere swimming pool.

The Cornell House operated as a hotel until 1935. It closed shortly after the passing of Mrs. Cornell. It had several private owners between its closing and November, 1981, when the structure burned down.

MAPLE AVENUE FARM

Maple Avenue Farm was located about two miles beyond the west end of the village of Stamford. The boarding house could accommodate fifty guests and prided itself in affording them, all the comforts of home away from home. The Farm had all the modern improvements of its day, as well as electric lights. The guest rooms available, either had hot and cold running water or private bath. There was garage space for the guests' automobiles. The Maple Avenue Farm, did furnish taxi service for those who needed it, at reasonable rates.

The fresh fruit, vegetables, milk and cream for the table, were supplied from the farm itself.

The guests had ample amusement, during their stay. They enjoyed croquet, tennis, fishing and swimming in a nearby pool. In the evening, the Maple Avenue Farm provided dancing.

The village of Stamford offered the guests additional activities, and they were only a short drive away.

Maple Farm Inn, Stamford, N.Y.

News Items of Interest from the Column
of the Stamford Recorder August 17, 1895

Condensed News Articles

The Boys in Blue

The greatest event of the season was the visit of the State Militia. This is the first time that the people of Stamford have had an opportunity to witness such a military display at home and this opportunity was well improved for a large number of people were on the grounds each day of the encampment. The camp was located on the grounds of the Athletic Association and was very fittingly named "Camp Churchill."

A large crowd of citizens and guests were gathered at the station to welcome the boys, Monday morning and afternoon, as they arrived in town. They made a most favorable appearance as they marched through the streets from the station to the camp grounds. The soldiers broke camp early Friday morning and left for their homes. All, both officers and men spoke in the highest terms of the time they had spent in Stamford and of the hospitality extended to them by the people here. The whole affair was most successful from beginning to end and will long be remembered as one of the most interesting events of the summer.

Social Whisperings

The military hop, which was given at Churchill Hall, Wednesday evening, in honor of our gallant soldier visitors, was a most brilliant function. The ballroom was tastefully decorated with greens, sweet peas and the ever beautiful stars and stripes. A large American flag was draped at the back of the stage, and in the center, near the footlights, was a stack of rifles that completed the martial effect. Mr. C.H. Wiberly had charge of the decorations and he secured a success. Professor Wessel provided one of his excellent musical menus. Nearly all the guests of Churchill Hall were in the ballroom some time during the evening. Greycourt and the other houses in town were also represented. Despite the crowded floor, a delightful evening passed all to rapidly.

The guests at the Atchinson House gave a progressive euchre party on Tuesday evening.

A "Midget's Sunlight Casino" party was given on the porches of Greycourt Inn, Saturday morning by Prof. and Mrs. Erwin, the occasion being the tenth birthday of their son, Kenneth Erwin.

A large party from Ingleside Cottage went on a picnic to Summit on Wednesday. A most enjoyable day was thus spent.

One of the novel entertainments recently given by the guests of the Westholm, was a "Library Party." There seems to be no end of life at this popular house this summer.

A very brilliant hop was given at Greycourt Inn on Tuesday evening. The music consisting of nine pieces selected from the military band, was a prominant feature of the occasion. The house was handsomely decorated with ferns and evergreens, and the floor was in fine condition. A large number of guests from other houses were present and full dress predominated among the ladies and gentlemen.

A progressive euchre party was given at the Cold Spring House on Thursday evening August 8. A straw ride on Tuesday evening gave the young people an enjoyable time. The load drove to Hobart, and refreshments were served.

A most delightful dance was given at the Grant House on Tuesday evening. The officers of the different companies in camp here were the guests of honor.

Last Friday evening the guests at the Greenhurst found entertainment in a "peanut hunt." Refreshments were served and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

The officers of the several companies were entertained at dinner at Greycourt Inn on Thursday.

A sale will be held in the East Hall parlor of Churchill Hall, Monday afternoon and evening, August 19, for the benefit of the Ladies Guild of Grace Episcopal Chapel.

Rev. B. Frank Tobey of Danby, New York will preach at the Baptist Church, Stamford, Sunday, August 25th at 10:30 A.M.

The Rev. T.S. Cartwright of St. Barnabas, Church, Brooklyn, will preach both morning and evening services at Grace Chapel, this Sunday.

Greycourt Inn, Stamford, N.Y.

The Spiritual, Recreational and Pleasures of the Queen of the Catskills

THE CHURCHES OF STAMFORD

There were five flourishing churches in the village of Stamford, all located along Main Street, with the exception of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, located on Harper Street, below the Ivanhurst.

The First Presbyterian Church (1886); The Baptist Church (built 1864-65 and rebuilt 1888-9); The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (1870); The Methodist - Episcopal (1870) and the Grace Episcopal Chapel (1883) were all supported by good-sized congregations and they all had very fine rectors. The edifices of the churches were of architectural beauty, they were well furnished, and all lighted by electricity. (1892).

During the summer months visiting clergymen frequently supplied the pulpits. The hotel guests increased the attendance of the congregation considerably. The five churches all had able organists and choirs. Some of the seasonal hotel guests, who enjoyed singing, joined the choir of their choice, for the duration of their visit in Stamford. Other guests, found pleasure in helping with the various church projects, such as the summer Bazaar and the church socials.

Today, three of the churches are still active at their original sites, the First Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church, both on Main Street and the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church on Harper Street (which was rebuilt after receiving extensive damage in a 1966 fire).

Grace Episcopal Chapel's structure still stands, but has been converted into a place of business. The Baptist Church remains standing, and is privately owned. The new Baptist Church is located on the former site of the Chateau de Navarre Hotel on Lake Street.

First Presbyterian Church, Baptist Church and Methodist Church, Stamford, N.Y. Catskill Mts.

Church of the Sacred Heart and Rectory, Stamford, N.Y.

Episcopal Church, Stamford, N.Y.

Methodist-Episcopal Church, Stamford, N.Y.

Courtesy of the Stamford Village Library Association

BATHGATE HOSPITAL

In the summer months, Stamford's population grew from 1,000 to 6,000. There were four practicing physicians in the village, to care for any of the visitors who might become ill. Mr. N.P. Young felt there was a great need to establish a hospital in the community; the local doctors also agreed with this need. In 1920, N.P. Young donated a cottage, located on the Oneonta Road, to the Village of Stamford, which was converted into a hospital. It gradually became a year round hospital, with twelve beds on the three floors. Mr. Young did much financially, to make this all possible. Immediately, the hospital gained popular approval and served a long felt need to the villagers, the summer hotel and boarding house guests, and those from the surrounding area, when the need arose. In 1932, Mrs. Margaret Bathgate Becker and her son, made an outright gift of their beautiful home and seven acres of land to the village for a hospital. This home was more spacious and serviceable than the first hospital, and was located closer to Stamford on the Oneonta Road, opposite the Rexmere lakes and park. With the generous gesture of N.P. Young, the first hospital was retained by the Hospital Association, to be sold or used in any way desired by them. Bathgate Hospital was equipped with 23 beds on two floors and served the community well over the years. The summer visitors felt reassured, just knowing that Bathgate Hospital was near at hand, should they need its services. Today, Stamford has a large Community Hospital on the site of Bathgate Hospital.

Mt. Ut-say-an-tha Tower House. Elev. 3365 ft.

Greenhurst

THE TOWER OF MT. UTSAYANTHA

The top of Mt. Utsayantha was opened to the public, July 4, 1882, as a place of recreation. Colonel Rulif Ruliffson had built a road to the top of the mountain and erected a tower. The first tower blew down and another one was struck by lightning and burned. Eventually a third observation tower was built. In later years, Dr. Churchill bought the mountain top and upon his death, willed it to the village of Stamford, to be maintained as a park.

For over one hundred years, summer hotel guests, tourists and people of the area, have enjoyed driving or hiking up Mountain Road, then turning left at the saddle and ascending to the Tower.

> Since 1936, part way up the saddle, one passes by the graveside memorial of Princess Utsayantha. The dedication ceremonies that took place on October 17th of that year were quite elaborate and appropriate.

The view from the Tower is magnificent. One can see the peaks of the Catskills Mountains, the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts, the Green Mountains in Vermont and the peaks of the Adirondacks, besides the breathtaking, panoramic view of the village of Stamford and her countryside.

In later years, stone fireplaces were built and picnic tables were placed in the surrounding area of the Tower, giving viewers an added pleasure. Nearby, there was a spring with delicious tasting water. Many a happy, summer picnic-birthday party, was celebrated atop Mt. Utsayantha. Picnic lunches were cheerfully put together by the hotels, for their guests.

> In 1941, the caretaker reported, that during the month of July, 1100 guests had visited the Tower from as far away as California, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, New Jersey, Georgia, North Carolina, Illinois, Cuba, Puerto Rico and South America. During the same month on a Sunday, a party of 20 people enjoyed a picnic the entire day at Mt. Utsayantha Park.

There were many years, when the Tower maintained a gift shop, with beautiful souvenirs for the visitors to take home with them, as a reminder of their visit.

When the hikers were ready to leave the mountain, some descended down a steep path to the right of the Tower, known as the "Devil's Slide;" it once was an old Indian trail. The path comes out on Mountain Road, just above the Sacred Heart Cemetery, not too far from Main Street and the Greenhurst Boarding House.

On the front of the Tower there are electric lights, fashioned in the form of a cross. At night, the bright white lights of the cross act as a beacon to the late traveler, and perhaps a protector, to the village of the "Queen of the Catskills."

Today, the Tower is closed, but one can still climb or drive to the top of Mt. Utsayantha. There is a firetower there, with a Fire Warden in attendance.

INDIAN TRAIL PARK

Located behind the Dr. Churchill Memorial Library, Indian Trail Park is well remembered for the evening concerts performed on the dock of the swimming pool and in the band stand. The Park, with its tranquil beauty, also offered daytime recreational pleasures to the summer visitors, in the way of swimming, horseshoes and tennis. There were also park benches for those who just wanted to sit and read. For the younger set, there were the swings, see-saws and a section of the swimming pool, set aside for them. Indian Trail Park, once was an old Indian Trail used by the Mohawks in their hunting excursions to the Delaware Valley. The Park is still actively used.

Dr. Churchill Memorial Gymnasium and Library, Stamford-in-the-Catskills, N.Y.

DR. CHURCHILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Located on Main Street, the Dr. Churchill Memorial Library was and continues to be a wonderful source, for the hotel guests who seek a quiet diversion through reading a good book during their stay in Stamford.

Swimming Pool, at Indian Trail Park, Stamford, N.Y.

WEST END BOWLING ALLEY

Bowlers followed their favorite pastime in the cool and modern West End bowling alleys on South Street, built in 1893.

Recreational Center for Health and Sport,
West End Bowling Alley, Stamford, N.Y. E.A. Biallas, Mgr.

Country Club, Stamford in the Catskills, N.Y.

Stamford Golf & Country Club Champion 18 hole Golf Course, Stamford, N.Y.

THE STAMFORD COUNTRY CLUB

The Stamford Country Club was a two story wooden structure, built in 1916 and completed in 1917, through the generous foresight of N.P. Young.

N.P. Young was as anxious for the advancement of Stamford as a summer resort region, as Dr. Churchill had been; he felt it was imperative that Stamford have an 18-hole golf course and its own Club House.

The Country Club is located several miles from the village, beyond Lake Street; its entrance road is near the Craft Farm House, off of Route 10 in a northwest direction. The club's high elevation above Stamford gave the golfer and the visitor to the Club House, a gorgeous, breath-taking panoramic view of the mountainous scenery.

The golf course was designed and built by experts, and kept in top notch condition. The golfer, winding through a variety of traps, well placed hazards and velvety greens was provided with full enjoyment, without a mar for an ideal game. The hotel guests were able to play at the Club, for a reasonable green fee, as well as participate in all the Stamford Country Club affairs.

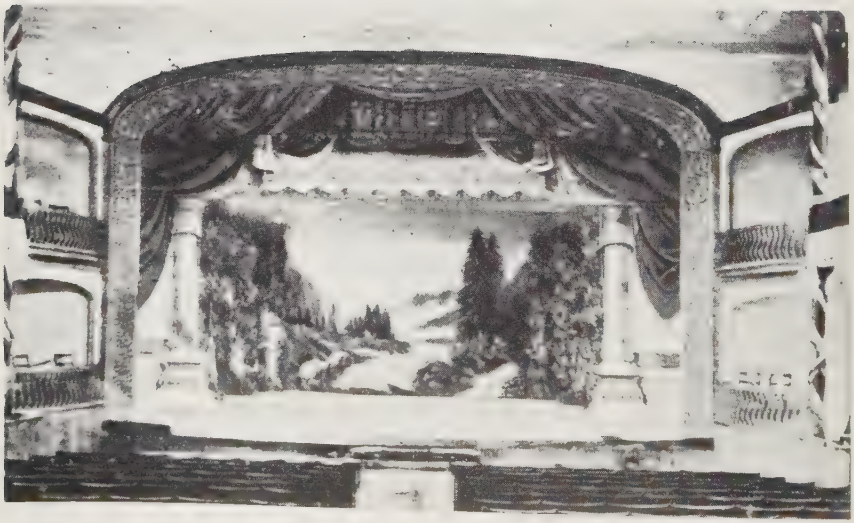
The Club House had a reputation of being one of the finest in the mountain resort area. It was 170 feet in length, with a spacious ballroom, dining room, ladies' parlor, mens' club and smoking room, shower baths, lockers, etc. The open fireplaces and broad verandas were very appealing to those who wished to indulge in complete idleness or visit with friends. During the summer season, weekly dances, afternoon teas, dinners and bridge parties were held at the Club House. It was an important center of Stamford's summer life.

The Country Club burned down October 19, 1939, from sparks out of the chimney from a fire in the fireplace, that ignited the roof.

After the Country Club disaster, N.P. Young, arranged for the purchase of the "Spruceland Inn" a night club, located at the entrance of Country Club Road, across from the Craft Farm House. The "Spruceland Inn" was used as the Stamford Country Club, and it remained as such, until the original Caddy Shop was expanded to accommodate the present Stamford Country Club. The parking lot is the site of the original Club House that burned. The former Stamford Country Club, is now owned by the Stamford V.F.W. Post.

INTERIOR OF STAMFORD'S FAMED OPERA HOUSE

It was built in 1900 at a cost of $8000. The opera house became the cultural center of the community, located to the rear of the former bank building on Main Street. The building could seat up to 2,000 people, and featured a main floor that could be elevated by hand cranks to meet the level of the stage for dancing and other social gatherings. Theodore Roosevelt spoke there in the fall of 1900 before an audience of 1,500 people. Other events included operettas, fashion shows, debates, plays and dances. Some commencement programs were staged there and some basketball games as well. One of the highlights in the opera house's final years was the local fireman's ball. Declared a hazard by the village board, it was closed and torn down in 1954.



Interior View of Stamford Opera House, Stamford, N.Y., Catskill Mountains.

SMALLEY'S THEATRE ON MAIN STREET

Smalley's showed only the finest of films. On its stage, such performers as Cowboys Ken Maynard, Tom Mix and Roy Rogers were but a few of the well known personalities that performed on the Smalley's stage. The theatre was torn down; its site is unoccupied.

Jewelry Store, Stamford, N. Y. Catskill Mts.

Main Street, Stamford, N. Y.

MAIN STREET STAMFORD

The business places along the village's Main Street, were always well stocked with attractively displayed clean merchandise.

A Business Block, Stamford, N. Y.

33—The Millan Store, Robinson Bros., Prop., Stamford, N. Y.

34—Railroad Avenue, Stamford, N. Y.

36—West Main Street, Stamford, N. Y.

CONCLUSION

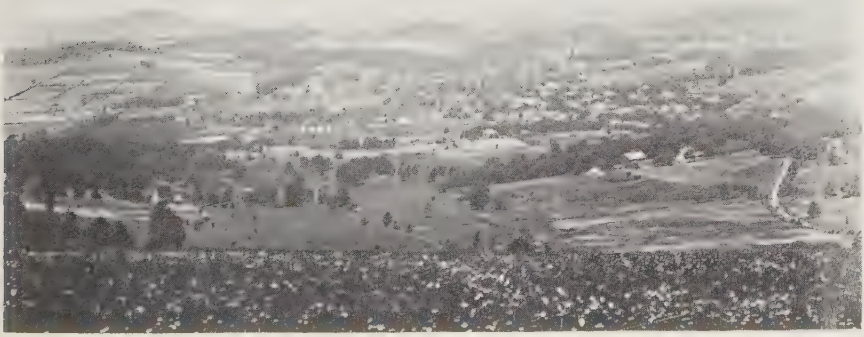
The legend of the Grand Hotel Era of the village of Stamford has been written.

Dr. Stephen E. Churchill and Nicholas P. Young blazed the trail for the Queen's future benefactors - two, in the interim of years, were the late Fred P. Murphy and the late Avery Robinson. Through their diligent pursuit and efforts, Stamford has been revived and developed into a winter ski resort. Multitudes of snow lovers come to enjoy all the winter sports in this picturesque and quaint village.

Each season has its own attraction. The winter visitors, anxiously await for the snow to begin to fall again each year; to be drawn back to enjoy the season's pleasures.

The Queen of the Catskills never lost her reign nor her beauty. In her quest, she conquered all the four seasons. The times have changed, but, the Queen of the Catskills, Stamford, Delaware County, New York will reign forever. The grand hotels are gone but they have been replaced by modern Motor Inns and Bed and Breakfast Hostels.

82—Stamford, N. Y., Queen of the Catskills



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Village of Stamford 1890

Propsect St.
Academy St.
N. Delaware
Beaver St.
Liberty St.
Main St.
Delaware St.
R.R. Ave.
Depot St.

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